

From the Desk of - Mary Ratliff, President
MISSOURI STATE CONFERENCE NAACP

May 23, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WT Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

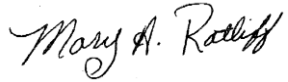
The core mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons. For this reason, I write to urge your approval of the proposed acquisition of T-Mobile by AT&T.

One of the most important issues faced by people of color in Missouri and across America is that many do not have the same access to advanced technology as other populations. As we work to promote an environment that lifts up our schools, minority small businesses, and other institutions, the lack of equal access to technology like high-speed broadband service creates an uneven playing field. In the current age of information, businesses and schools that can access high-speed wireless broadband technology will certainly have advantages over those that can't. But that playing field can and will become more level should this proposed merger be allowed to move forward.

President Obama has called it a national priority to extend high-speed broadband access to nearly all Americans, and with 4G LTE mobile broadband expanded to over 97 percent of America as a result of this merger, that goal would virtually be met. That would mean access to information and technology for people of color in Missouri and nearly every region of America.

The increase in access to opportunity and investment that would result from this merger is too great to deny, and on behalf of the Missouri State Conference of the NAACP, I strongly urge you to support AT&T's proposed merger with T-Mobile USA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary A. Ratliff". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "R".

Mary A. Ratliff
Missouri State Conference President
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